

CA
EW
-81P61

3 1761 11556585 5

THE PUBLIC VIEW OF GROWING OLD FOR A PUBLIC ON AGING

PRIORITIES FOR A PUBLIC ON AGING

A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

- RETIREMENT ISSUES AND INCOME
- LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE
- HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY



Health
and Welfare
Canada

Santé et
Bien-être social
Canada

Canada

THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Terms of Reference

Established by a federal Order-in-Council May 1 1980, the eighteen-member National Advisory Council on Aging is charged with assisting and counselling the Minister of Health and Welfare on matters relating to the quality of life of Canada's rapidly growing aging population.

Members are appointed because of their knowledge of various areas of aging, and hold office for a term of two to three years, renewable. The Council meets at least twice a year and its sub-committees convene much more frequently. The programs of the Council are funded by Health and Welfare Canada.

Members

Dr. Sylvia McDonald, Chairman
Montréal, Qué.

Mr. Chuck Bayley
Vancouver, B.C.

Dr. Ronald Bayne
Hamilton, Ont.

The Honourable Thérèse Casgrain
Westmount, Qué.

Mr. Stephen P. Connolly
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Mrs. Zoe Cousins
Whitehorse, Y.T.

Mrs. Mary Davis
Edmonton, Alta.

Mrs. Berthe Fournier
Beauport, Qué.

Mrs. Alice Labelle
St-Boniface, Man.

Mrs. Lise Langlois
Beauport, Qué.

Mr. Charles McDonald
Windsor, Ont.

Mrs. Corabel Penfold
Toronto, Ont.

Mr. Henri Richard
Shediac, N.B.

Mr. Melvin Rowe
St. John's, Nfld

Mr. James Sangster
Regina, Sask.

Mr. Patrice Tardif
St-Méthode-de-Frontenac, Qué.

Mr. Bryan Vaughan
Toronto, Ont.

Mr. Charles S. Wall
Sydney, N.S.

Secretariat

Maurice Miron, *Director*

Claude Lacasse,
Principal Project Officer

Francine Beauregard,
Information Officer

Liliane Sauvé, *Secretary*

CONTENTS

PREFACE	5
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	6
SECTION ONE: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	12
i. The Public View of the Aging Person	12
ii. Learning Opportunities for Older People	14
SECTION TWO: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR OLDER CANADIANS	18
iii. Education and Training for Work with the Elderly	18
Service and Environmental Needs of the Elderly	19
Advocacy on Behalf of the Elderly	22
Research Into Matters and Conditions Affecting the Elderly	23
SECTION THREE: RETIREMENT ISSUES AND INCOME AS THEY AFFECT THE ELDERLY	26



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761115565855>

PREFACE

With this first report, the National Advisory Council on Aging takes up the task of presenting to the public what may be regarded as the most urgent of the problems facing elderly people in Canada today. The Council has established priorities for action: in transforming the public view of aging; providing learning opportunities to enable this period of life to become a time of renewed growth; coordinating and improving the health and social service facilities available to the aged, and pursuing the complex requirements related to retirement. This Report represents the outcome of its deliberations on these priority questions over a number of months.

Since its establishment in May 1980, the Council has held three formal meetings. At the latest of these, on October 3-4 1981, the text of the Report was approved by the members as a whole and authorized for publication.

The Report is divided into three sections arising from some of the priorities established at the first meeting of the Council in October 1980. Of these priorities eight were selected as most urgent and, at the second meeting at the end of February 1981, the focus was narrowed to direct immediate attention to three areas. One of these, on educating the public and education of the elderly, subsequently emerged as two distinct subjects in the report of the sub-committee.

At the February meeting three sub-committees were established and proceeded to meet independently. Dr. Ronald Bayne served as chairman of the sub-committee on health and social services, Mr. Henri Richard was chairman of the sub-committee on retirement, and Mrs. Lise Langlois chaired the sub-committee on educating the public and providing learning opportunities for the aged.

In addition to the response of the government ministries and social institutions to which the recommendations of this Report are addressed, the Council, in accordance with its mandate, invites the reaction of the public at large. A response form and self-addressed envelope are included for the convenience of respondents.

Dr. Sylvia McDonald,
Chairman
Ottawa

October 1981

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

i. The Public View of the Aging Person

Attention: Ministers and officials of federal and provincial departments of communication and social services; Directors and boards of social agencies and senior centres; Program directors of CBC, cable and private radio and television broadcasting services; Editors of newspapers, magazines and professional journals.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

1. An intensive program of public information be started this coming year, to correct the misconceptions about aging, and to establish a positive view of the role of the elderly in society.

1.1 The elderly be involved in planning and carrying out this program which should be in harmony with local situations.

1.2 Communicators and media personnel, themselves, be included in a separate program to make them aware of the realities of aging, and of the positive roles of the elderly.

ii. Learning Opportunities for Older People

Attention: Ministers and officials of federal and provincial departments of social services and/or education, and elected boards of education;

Directors of agencies having an education component for the elderly;

Educator-training departments of universities and colleges.

A wide and attractive range of learning opportunities should be made available to the elderly in order to provide for and encourage their continuing development and personal esteem. Therefore . . .

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

2. Programs include learning opportunities in day-to-day living skills; leisure-time skills; intellectual challenges; and handling crises.

2.1 All programs for the elderly involve them in the planning and implementation.

2.2 All program arrangements recognize that there are appropriate times, locations, and physical and social environments. Also, recognize that teaching procedures utilize the life-experiences of the elderly and their diverse cultural and value-systems.

2.3 Wherever possible, programs use elderly persons in teaching and experience-sharing roles.

2.4 Programs be developed to open up new roles and vocations for the elderly in our evolving society.

2.5 Special attention be given to means by which the elderly are made aware of the learning opportunities available; and to means of motivating them to participate.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR OLDER CANADIANS

iii. Education and Training for Work with the Elderly

Attention: All levels of government including elected and administrative officials; Universities, health science centres, community colleges and orders; Professional medical and health-care associations; Association of Canadian Medical Colleges, and accrediting bodies for care facilities; Health and social service agencies and senior centres.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

3. Each health care and social work student have opportunities to learn the true nature of aging (in contrast to the myths) and be competent in dealing with age related health and social problems of the elderly.

3.1 Evaluation of competence be made during training and prior to licensing/certification/registration, of all professionals in these fields.

4. Provincial and federal funding be provided to ensure specific training and up-grading programs for students, practising professionals, and to increase the numbers and competence of instructors in these fields.

5. Courses be designed for non-professionals who work with and/or care for the elderly. (Such courses should include basic knowledge about aging, practical information and training in the

skills required, including communication. The courses should be designed in consultation with up-to-date, competent people in the fields.)

6. Manpower inventories, by government agencies, include the current and predicted manpower requirements for providing total health and social services for the elderly. (Categories should have appended specific job profiles which should be up-dated at regular intervals.)

Service and Environmental Needs of the Elderly

Attention: All levels of government; Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; Architectural and construction associations; News media, telephone companies; Public health agencies; Hospital and residential care national and provincial organizations; Labour bodies.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

7. Safe, sanitary, appropriately equipped, affordable housing be available to the elderly.

7.1 Modifications in private homes be encouraged to allow disabled elderly to remain there, and that governments provide incentives for this purpose.

7.2 Bylaws be established, and enforced, to define minimum standards for accommodation put to rent for the elderly.

8. That there be support services made available in every community to support and encourage the networks of family and friends by home health care, home-maker help, handyman services and counselling.

9. Every community have, in operation, a co-ordinated system of volunteers to work with the elderly in need of assistance such as volunteers can provide.

(Volunteers should be appropriately trained, and special training programs should be available for co-ordinators of volunteer programs.)

9.1 Programs be developed, and put into action, to involve the elderly in maintaining healthy life-styles; and that the elderly participate in planning and promoting such life-style programs.

10. Communication programs be set up to make the elderly, their families and entire communities aware of services available to seniors and how to gain entry. (Examples are: central information and referral services; placement co-ordination services; senior volunteer counsellors; a page in telephone directories, in large print, devoted to key services phone numbers; directories of services to seniors; speakers bureau, cable-TV announcements.)

11. Procedures be established to detect elderly who may be at risk of accidents, poor nutrition or non identified illness, and to take action in ways not to infringe on

privacy or to create anxiety. (Examples may be the buddy system, postal alert, public health unit initiatives linking up with primary care professionals.)

12. Unions, management and governments develop practical ways to settle disputes over wages and working conditions; at no time should elderly patients and residents in care facilities be without proper and adequate care.

13. The essential skills, knowledge and attitudes of professionals and staff working with the elderly be identified and these standards be recorded for use in pre- employment interviews and in-service evaluations.

13.1 Residential care facilities both profit and non-profit operations seek accreditation by recognized agencies such as the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation (Extended Care Facilities).

14. "Extra billing" by professionals participating in government medicare programs, not be permitted; and that the professional bodies and medicare agencies, develop procedures to resolve problems of fee-schedules.

Advocacy on Behalf of the Elderly

Attention: National, provincial and local senior and pensioner organizations; All levels of government; Health and social service agencies and senior centres.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

15. An organized body, independent of government and social agencies, function, in each community and province, to promote the well-being of the elderly and their optimal care when needed.

(Members of such body should be familiar with "appropriate" care and service, and with high standards for same. Their function would include promoting these standards among professionals and their community.)

15.1 This body facilitate, when necessary, elderly persons and/or their families, to obtain appropriate and adequate service or care and to assist them in exploring in a responsible way any questions of abuse or neglect.

15.2 This body *perform* an ombudsman role on behalf of the elderly.

Research Into Matters and Conditions Affecting the Elderly

Attention: Federal and provincial governments; Research councils and government funding agencies; Private foundations; Health Science centres; Medical colleges;

National medical and professional associations; Canadian Pharmaceutical Association; Canadian Mental Health Association and national specialized health organizations.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

16. Strong policy and financial support be directed to basic and applied research, in order for research scientists to work in the field dealing with the aging process, age-related diseases and disabling conditions.

17. Research be done on ways and means to promote healthy life-styles for the elderly; and that this include procedures to ensure early identification of treatable diseases, and to avoid health hazards.

17.1 Research be done to determine the nutritional needs of elderly persons, and the value of exercise: such research to evaluate what is already being advocated and to recognize dietary, cultural and ethnic factors.

18. Expert sociological research be carried on to obtain reliable data on:

- Canadian familial and social structures including social networks;
- The influence of cultural practices and values have on these in relation to meeting the needs of the elderly . . . needs such as housing, health care and protective services;
- Information on regional, urban and rural differences and trends,

which affect the elderly, their families and social networks and services.

19. Research be done in the following aspects of drugs and the elderly:

- The action of specific drugs, and their side-effects, on specific organs and the total body.
- The proper communication between physicians, other health-care professionals and pharmacists, and their patients regarding compliance and possible side and adverse effects.
- Public education regarding the place of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
- The efficacy of present federal and provincial legislation controlling the prescribing, marketing, dispensing and use of drugs. (Special attention should be given to over-medication and to unproven products.)

20. Research be done in the following aspects of providing health and social services:

- The need for various preventive and support programs, with a view to establishing priorities.
- Methods of coordinating delivery systems between agencies and between all levels of government for individual persons.
- Methods of evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of services being provided.
- The basic quality of services which should be available to the elderly across Canada, recognizing local and regional differences.

21. Research be done to define the role requirements for professionals who work with the elderly; and to identify optimal models of "team composition" of professionals and non-professionals in various community and institutional settings. (The main criteria for teams, should be maximum effectiveness, efficiency and flexibility.)

22. Research be done to determine the impact of "user charges" on the access to and utilization of health and social services and programs.

RETIREMENT ISSUES AND INCOME AS THEY AFFECT THE ELDERLY

Attention: Federal and provincial governments; Employer and employee associations; Enterprises in the field of retirement income.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

23. Government benefits to older people, in need, be increased to at least the poverty line level recognized by Statistics Canada and taking into consideration regional differences in cost-of-living.

23.1 The quarterly indexing be continued for the Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance, in order to preserve the purchasing power of these benefits.

24. There be regular, periodic reviews of CPP and QPP pension plans (particularly, the "Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings"), and action be taken to ensure that the intended benefits remain undiminished by inflation.

24.1 A method be established to include, as pensionable, the "drop-out years" from the labour/work force.

25. Individuals be encouraged, through various avenues, to invest for their needs in later life.

26. Any terms relating to mandatory retirement be negotiated in the work place, with recognition that a flexible system exist to provide employees with options.

27. Remunerative work opportunities appropriate for older workers, be developed by employers (where applicable in co-operation with the unions.)

27.1 Research be done into possible fields of work for older persons to assist employers or self-help groups; this research to be funded by appropriate agencies.

28. Research be done to establish procedures to evaluate present pre-retirement programs, covering content, presentation, motivation strategies, timing and costs.

28.1 Research be done to establish models of pre-retirement programs with long-term values.

28.2 Research be done into efficient and effective ways to involve employers and employees in establishing pre-retirement programs.

SECTION ONE: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Although it is apparent that public education and learning opportunities for the elderly are distinct topics, and proposals and programs must be developed separately for each, it is also clear that a close inter-relationship exists between them. Those who provide educational opportunities will be limited by their understanding, or lack of understanding, of the elderly person. The elderly themselves will be hampered in motivation to pursue educational programs if their self-confidence is diminished by a derogatory or condescending view of what it means to grow old. It sometimes seems that the elderly have absorbed all the clichés on advancing age and are seriously prejudiced against themselves.

Thus public education and learning opportunities are complementary. Public education must provide the basis for the social dynamic to change attitudes and behavior toward elderly people; an important outcome must be the provision of learning opportunities truly geared to the needs of older people.

An appropriate preliminary to a discussion of required learning opportunities is a consideration of the equally important need to improve our common knowledge of the aging person in our society.

i. The Public View of the Aging Person

Public education, as distinct from academic study, embraces a very wide spectrum. It includes the manner in which everyone in society perceives the others around him, and how he regards all the relationships that follow from those perceptions.

Of increasing importance, as older people become a larger proportion of total population, is the way we regard these senior members of society. Everyone regardless of age and socio-economic status has, more and more, to deal with so-called "aged persons". It becomes essential to understand more clearly the characteristic behavior and traits of this age group, and what the process of aging actually is.

It is important also to consider how the elderly of one generation may differ from the next: for example, that elderly women of one generation may be almost entirely home-makers, while the next may have been employed outside the home.

The urgent need to broaden our understanding is clearly evident from even the most cursory analysis of the living conditions of elderly persons who now are literally cut off from the active world, and placed in a category separate from the younger generations, the more productive generations, as soon as they are

made to retire or once their children have left home. Very distorted stereotypes have grown up around older people and these stereotypes remain to be challenged. To the extent that the distorted view leads to unsuitable treatment of the elderly, the public could benefit from taking a hard look at the fate it reserves for that time of life that surely awaits us all. The public must be made to realize also how much society is impoverished when older citizens are not able to contribute from their experience which has been so rich and so greatly diversified.

A better knowledge of aging, better information about the elderly, should make possible greater opportunities for this segment of the population. The later years of life, like any other, should be a time of growth, not of sadness. It is important for the public to regard these years as a period when intellectual, cognitive, affective and social development can be maintained and extended.

To achieve this awareness, a large-scale, on-going, well-directed program of public education is essential.

In considering an approach to public education on the aged and the process of aging, two important principles must be kept in mind.

First, such a program should involve not only professionals working in the area of gerontology and others working with elderly persons, but the elderly

themselves and their families. These are the first people concerned and therefore the best people to define where public attention ought to be focussed: they can identify the clichés and prejudices from which they suffer continually. Public education programs influenced in this way will tend to emphasize human experience rather than scientific theory, and will appeal not only to the mind of the public but to the emotions which are the strongest factor in changing current attitudes.

Second, any public education program that is national in scope must be designed in a flexible way that permits adjustment to provincial, regional and even local reality. Community perceptions of what is needed, of points of emphasis, are most likely to meet the objectives of the program.

A preliminary objective for such a program is immediately apparent: to increase the perceived worth of the senior citizen in society. To accomplish this it is necessary to destroy certain stereotypes (such as uselessness and total dependence). The stereotypes can only be destroyed if replaced by a more positive and more accurate conception which will demonstrate the potential contribution (in part, for example, the transmission of wisdom) of older people to society. These positive values may be largely cultural rather than economic, though there are economic

contributions to be considered as well.

In proposing a program of public education it is essential to begin with the "communicators". If the mass media is to be used, the broadcaster and the producer must themselves be convinced of the values they are putting forward. A preliminary educational approach to these professionals is needed, since these people are quite likely to be affected by the prejudices that are current in our society.

As the program is developed, obvious adaptations of popular television and radio features will be indicated. Older people may discuss their experiences and reactions on open line programs. Drama and documentary, as well as advertising, can convey a sense of "joie de vivre" rather than the eternal message of sadness where older people are portrayed. The message should be realistic and complete, including such dimensions of everyday reality as sexual activity, too often the subject of taboos, prejudices and maladjusted behavior not only in the elderly but also in those who have contact with them.

Two specific additional recommendations in this area should be mentioned. The National Advisory Council on Aging should step into the field of public education by making its own existence and purposes known as widely as possible. Secondly, the Council should work within the framework of the

World Assembly on Aging planned for 1982 to present a message to the general public of particular value (for example, a recorded and/or printed compilation of the testimonies of elderly people of various ethnic and social backgrounds).

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

1. An intensive program of public information be started this coming year, to correct the misconceptions about aging, and to establish a positive view of the role of the elderly in society.
 - 1.1 The elderly be involved in planning and carrying out this program which should be in harmony with local situations.
 - 1.2 Communicators and media personnel, themselves, be included in a separate program to make them aware of the realities of aging, and of the positive roles of the elderly.

ii. Learning Opportunities for Older People

There is no question that, although some educational facilities for older people have developed in recent years, only a fraction of the present elderly population attends the offered programs or is aware of the possibilities for continued learning experience. Yet nothing could demonstrate more clearly a readiness to reverse the notion that the age of sixty-five marks an end to any significant participation in life, than the provision and wide acceptance of education as a

normal pursuit of the older person.

Every study of the aged in our society draws the same conclusion about the trauma of reaching retirement age. To that point the individual has found self-esteem in the work he or she performs and the income derived from it. A sudden and profound sense of uselessness, of being a burden, almost invariably overwhelms that person as he or she retires.

Yet these people have not, on one particular day in their lives, ceased to need self-esteem and the sense of personal growth and achievement. In the next years they will continue to need to develop, to grow, to learn, to expand the scope of their life experience.

For some, indeed, it may be a first opportunity to acquire new knowledge and new skills. They may have been tied too closely to their jobs to permit attending courses or enjoying other educational experience.

A program designed specifically for the elderly should be the objective. While use can be made of the established institutions — the colleges, schools and universities — the presentation has to be structured anew for these participants. Thus before senior citizen courses are put on the curriculum, older people must be drawn into the framing of their structure and content. A series of lectures, given at the end of the day to a set time-table, may meet the needs of the younger student

bent on acquiring a diploma. The older person usually does not have the same goals. Personal growth and mental stimulation may be more important, and these needs suggest more participation by the student and a less rigid structure. The physical restraints of coping with bad weather and poor transportation should also be seen as more serious deterrents to older students.

Prior consultation before designing a course will prevent many mistakes. It should be recognized that there are many more women than men in this age group; that many do not drive their own cars; that financial resources are almost always limited. Further, quite innovative community projects outside the classroom setting should be considered. These could be designed as a sharing experience of the participants, and would offer an attractive alternative to more traditional, academic courses.

General observation of the current situation in Canada reveals that participation in educational programs for the elderly is minimal, despite attempts in this direction by a number of educational institutions over a period of years. A few seem to have found a formula for success; others have had limited appeal. The approach adopted by the administration appears to have considerable bearing on the participation rate, but a more thorough study of this question is

needed, if guidelines are to be established. A profile of senior citizens currently enrolled in such programs would be useful: their previous level of education, major life experience and other relevant data should be collected.

Even more important, or as part of the same survey, an inventory and evaluation of current programs is required. This should explore the training and attitudes of those presenting the courses, as well as the content of the courses themselves. Such an inventory should be comprehensive, including the facilities provided in large urban centres, commuter towns and suburbs, and rural communities.

It is anticipated that such an inventory would show a fairly wide gamut of educational courses and projects already available, but under-utilized and requiring adaptation. Any restrictions or inadequacies in present programs should be investigated in terms of lack of funding or misdirection of funds, and of failure to use to the maximum present community facilities such as Golden Age clubs and community centres.

Based on the results made known by this survey, a dynamic, large-scale program should be introduced across Canada. The importance of new educational experience must again be stressed: only such experience can stimulate the older person to reverse a self-image that now perpetuates the myth that he or she is unable to grow and develop further, and

only such experience can dissipate dark or morbid thoughts and negative feelings. Older people will be enabled to explore the stage of life in which they find themselves, to evolve the role of the elder as a respected and contributing member of society.

An on-going function of the National Advisory Council on Aging must therefore be to initiate and stimulate action through governments, social agencies, educational institutions and community associations to bring new and improved learning opportunities within the reach of all older people, and to develop the approaches that will attract and involve older people. A committee of the National Advisory Council on Aging with additional members from appropriate fields of gerontology and education should be established to press for the implementation of those objectives.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

2. Programs include learning opportunities in day-to-day living skills; leisure-time skills; intellectual challenges; and handling crises.
 - 2.1 All programs for the elderly involve them in the planning and implementation.
 - 2.2 All program arrangements recognize that there are appropriate times, locations, and physical and social environments. Also, recognize that teaching

procedures utilize the life-experiences of the elderly and their diverse cultural and value-systems.

2.3 Wherever possible, programs use elderly persons in teaching and experience-sharing roles.

2.4 Programs be developed to open up new roles and vocations for the elderly in our evolving society.

2.5 Special attention be given to means by which the elderly are made aware of the learning opportunities available; and to means of motivating them to participate.

SECTION TWO: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR OLDER CANADIANS

iii. Education and Training for Work with the Elderly

It is essential that all health and social service personnel, professional and non-professional, be educated and trained to deal competently with the problems of elderly persons, who form a growing part of the population and who have specific treatment and care requirements.¹

To achieve this objective insofar as professionals are concerned, it is essential that teaching faculties demonstrate appropriate attitudes and knowledge of this increasingly important aspect of health and social service, and that curricula include a specific focus on age-related problems.²

Greater funding is required to provide now for the increased numbers of teachers who will be needed to train the professionals of the future to deal with the elderly, to treat the greater prevalence of disease, the tendency to recurrence and chronicity, and the age-related social problems of isolation and poverty.³ Practicing professionals also may need retraining and upgrading of their skills.

Along with professional education, a need exists to inform and train the large number of non-professionals, including family members, homemakers and handymen and aides of all kinds, who usually have the closest contact with and most direct

influence on the elderly.⁴

If educational needs are to be gauged correctly, a systematic assessment of existing resources in professional and non-professional personnel will be needed, to determine whether we have the necessary manpower, and whether it is adequately trained. Future manpower predictions must take account not only of the increased requirements of the aging population for services, but also of the need for flexibility and changing orientation of those services.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

3. Each health care and social work student have opportunities to learn the true nature of aging (in contrast to the myths) and be competent in dealing with age related health and social problems of the elderly.

3.1 Evaluation of competence be made during training and prior to licensing/certification/registration, of all professionals in these fields.

4. Provincial and federal funding be provided to ensure specific training and up-grading programs for students, practising professionals, and to increase the numbers and competence of instructors in these fields.

5. Courses be designed for non-professionals who work with and/or care for the elderly. (Such courses should include basic knowledge about aging, practical

information and training in the skills required, including communication. The courses should be designed in consultation with up-to-date, competent people in the fields.)

6. Manpower inventories, by government agencies, include the current and predicted manpower requirements for providing total health and social services for the elderly. (Categories should have appended specific job profiles which should be up-dated at regular intervals.)

References

1. **Wilson, D. Laurence, M.D.** *Time for a new approach to Canada's older population.* CMAJ 122 Apr 5, 1980 pp 829-833.
2. **Kane et al.** *The future need for geriatric manpower in the United States.* NEJM 302 1980 p. 1327.
3. *Medical education in Geriatrics.* Health Manpower Report No. 1/77. Health & Welfare Canada. Ottawa.
4. **Kraus, et al.** *The health of the very aged.* CMAJ 116 1977. p. 1007.

Service and Environmental Needs of the Elderly

Elderly Canadians should be assured of housing that is safe, hygienic and suitable to their needs. It is not clearly established whether there is a problem of insufficient housing available or insufficient income to afford it.¹ There are important implications for health in improper housing that leaves the older person vulnerable to accidents, neglect or violence.

The support of families and friends is vital to enable elderly persons to remain at home.² Health and social services can, however, provide essential support through health care, counselling, homemaker/home help service, maintenance and chore services, etc. Volunteers can also be involved in providing many auxiliary needs such as transportation, as well as encouragement and supervision. Their services should be related to the various professional community services.³

It is likely⁴ that the elderly will use personal initiative and utilize information to improve their health practices when appropriate information is provided. Group interaction and personal contact may be needed to develop this consciousness of good health and how to maintain it.

Often there is a communication gap between the available health, social and other services, and the older persons and their families.⁵ Assistance may be needed to

bridge the gap and relate needs to services in appropriate ways. Information services should be coordinated, and professional assistance provided where necessary, to assist the older person to understand the services available, what to expect of them and how to use them flexibly to meet specific needs.

Older persons may not be aware of the significance of certain symptoms or loss of function in the early identification of health problems.⁶ It is important, however, not to over-emphasize any disability that cannot be remedied. Careful enquiry as to the well-being of an old person in a non-threatening way may enable treatable conditions to be identified and hazardous living conditions to be improved. (This approach was recommended in the *Monograph on the Periodic Health Examination*, Health and Welfare Canada.)⁷

Persons receiving long-term institutional care are almost completely dependent on the staff for all services and for recreation.⁸ It is essential that all staff hold appropriate positive attitudes and feel appreciated and valued in their work.

It is also essential that patients' welfare should not be threatened by large-scale withdrawal of service. That the patient's welfare comes first should be put forward and accepted nationally and locally, by labour, management, professionals and governments.

A responsibility rests with employers of professionals and assistants dealing with the elderly to require from them not only skill and knowledge required and ensure that professionals are helped to keep up-to-date. Their competence and their attitudes should be identified prior to employment and by periodic review.⁹

There is evidence that the availability of physicians' services to the elderly is impeded by allowing any financial charge to be made directly to the patient. Medical services are essential to the elderly and government must assure universal access. The fact should be recognized that some patients, and often elderly patients, require more time to elucidate and deal with their complex problems, and physicians must be prepared to expend this time.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

7. Safe, sanitary, appropriately equipped, affordable housing be available to the elderly.
 - 7.1 Modifications in private homes be encouraged to allow disabled elderly to remain there, and that governments provide incentives for this purpose.
 - 7.2 Bylaws be established, and enforced, to define minimum standards for accommodation put to rent for the elderly.
8. That there be support services made available in every community to support and

encourage the networks of family and friends by home health care, home-maker help, handyman services and counselling.

9. Every community have, in operation, a co-ordinated system of volunteers to work with the elderly in need of assistance such as volunteers can provide.

(Volunteers should be appropriately trained, and special training programs should be available for co-ordinators of volunteer programs.)

9.1 Programs be developed, and put into action, to involve the elderly in maintaining healthy life-styles; and that the elderly participate in planning and promoting such life-style programs.

10. Communication programs be set up to make the elderly, their families and entire communities aware of services available to seniors and how to gain entry. (Examples are: central information and referral services; placement co-ordination services; senior volunteer counsellors; a page in telephone directories, in large print, devoted to key services phone numbers; directories of services to seniors; speakers bureau, cable-TV announcements.)

11. Procedures be established to detect elderly who may be at risk of accidents, poor nutrition or non identified illness, and to take action in ways not to infringe on privacy or to create anxiety. (Examples may be the buddy system, postal alert, public health

unit initiatives linking up with primary care professionals.)

12. Unions, management and governments develop practical ways to settle disputes over wages and working conditions; at no time should elderly patients and residents in care facilities be without proper and adequate care.

13. The essential skills, knowledge and attitudes of professionals and staff working with the elderly be identified and these standards be recorded for use in pre-employment interviews and in-service evaluations.

13.1 Residential care facilities both profit and non-profit operations seek accreditation by recognized agencies such as the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation (Extended Care Facilities).

14. "Extra billing" by professionals participating in government medicare programs, not be permitted; and that the professional bodies and medicare agencies, develop procedures to resolve problems of fee-schedules.

References

1. **Rose, Albert.** *In a symposium on social policies for an aging population.* ed. K. Kinanen. Office on Aging McMaster University 1981, pp 20-21.
2. **Kraus, A.J., Spasoff, R.A., Beattie, E.J., Rodenburg, M.** *Improving the long term care of the elderly in the community.* CMA Journal March 18 1978 118 p. 614.

3. *Supervision of the elderly in social services in Manchester (England) 1974-77.* City of Manchester Social Services Department.
4. **Kleinman, A., Eisenberg, L., Good, B.** *Culture, illness and care: Clinical lessons from anthropologic and cross-cultural research.* Ann Int Med 88 1978 pp 251-258.
5. **Gottesman, L.E., Ishizak, B., MacBride, S.M.** *Service management: concepts and models.* Gerontologist 1979 19 p. 378.
6. **Woodbridge, D.B.** *The geriatric institution as a therapeutic modality.* CMAJ 115 1976 pp 27-29.
7. *Periodic health examination monograph.* Health and Welfare Canada 1980.
8. **Kane, R.L., and Kane, R.A.** *Long term care — can our society meet the needs of its elderly.* Ann Rev Pub Hlth 1 1980 pp 227-253.
9. **Boltes, M.M. and Zerbe, M.B.** *Independence training in Nursing Home Residents.* Gerontologist 16 1976 pp 428-432.

Advocacy on Behalf of the Elderly
 Elderly persons are frequently in frail health and socially isolated. They are vulnerable to neglect and abuse. Some are fully able to manage their own affairs and have interested families, but others need protection against fraud, violence, neglect and injury. Workers and professionals may

take advantage of an opportunity to abuse a frail old person, or may ignore their needs.

In several provinces, organizations and individuals have started to involve themselves in offering protection to elderly persons in the community or in institutions. They are prepared to take action in support of an old person's right to privacy, protection and good care. Other concerned persons have suggested the need for an ombudsman, with recognized authority to intervene on behalf of the elderly. In either case, it is preferable to promote proper treatment and educate those in contact with the elderly, in an attempt to avoid later confrontation over deficiencies that could have been corrected.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

15. An organized body, independent of government and social agencies, function, in each community and province, to promote the well-being of the elderly and their optimal care when needed.
 (Members of such body should be familiar with "appropriate" care and service, and with high standards for same. Their function would include promoting these standards among professionals and their community.)

15.1 This body facilitate, when necessary, elderly persons and/or their families, to obtain appropriate and adequate service or care and to assist them in

exploring in a responsible way any questions of abuse or neglect.

15.2 This body perform an ombudsman role on behalf of the elderly.

Research Into Matters and Conditions Affecting the Elderly

Aging of individuals is presently associated with increased frailty in health and increased prevalence of disabling and life threatening disease.¹ However, mortality rates from cardiovascular disease and stroke are now beginning to fall² and control of other diseases of later life should be attainable. More research is needed on the aging process and age-related disease, and this will require increased funding.

The majority of elderly persons live independently in society but are subject to avoidable health hazards such as accidents or over-medication.³ They may be slow to identify symptoms of disease where early identification is important to successful treatment.⁴ Research is needed on the best approaches in providing information and advice without undue invasion of privacy of individuals.

There is a lack of Canadian information⁵ on the social supportive networks such as family and friends, available to older persons, and the effect of the demands of illness and disability on these supports. The significance of regional and cultural differences, and of the differences between the rural and

urban environment, is not well understood.

The specific nutritional requirements of older persons are poorly understood.⁶ Cultural and ethnic influences on food habits are other factors that have seldom been considered. The need and benefits of exercise in preserving health of older people is not well established, and new studies are required.⁷ In all these areas an expansion of research is greatly needed.

There is substantial evidence that physicians rely heavily on prescribing drugs in treating elderly persons.⁸ In addition, older persons themselves are buying vast quantities of over-the-counter "relief" medications. This situation exists in face of the concern that so little is known specifically on the actions and side effects of drugs, how they interact with other drugs and with food within the body.

A variety of services and programs for the elderly is being set up in Canada to meet their need for health care, social support, housing, recreation, transport, etc. Information is needed on the advantages and deficiencies of the various approaches and on the importance of regional, geographic and other factors.⁹

It is essential that health and social service professionals and helping non-professionals recognize and coordinate their skills and knowledge to meet the complex needs of older persons.

Their roles should be defined and understood.¹⁰ Professionals in each discipline must know the competencies of other disciplines and how to interact with them.

It is essential to ensure that the most appropriate services and programs, in the right combinations, are available and accessible to all persons who, on the basis of assessment, require them. User fees of various kinds may hinder the best utilization of these services and programs; an examination of the effects of alternative fee structures and funding mechanisms should be undertaken.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

16. Strong policy and financial support be directed to basic and applied research, in order for research scientists to work in the field dealing with the aging process, age-related diseases and disabling conditions.

17. Research be done on ways and means to promote healthy life-styles for the elderly; and that this include procedures to ensure early identification of treatable diseases, and to avoid health hazards.

17.1 Research be done to determine the nutritional needs of elderly persons, and the value of exercise: such research to evaluate what is already being advocated and to recognize dietary, cultural and ethnic factors.

18. Expert sociological research be carried on to obtain reliable data on:

- Canadian familial and social structures including social networks;
- The influence of cultural practices and values have on these in relation to meeting the needs of the elderly . . . needs such as housing, health care and protective services;
- Information on regional, urban and rural differences and trends, which affect the elderly, their families and social networks and services.

19. Research be done in the following aspects of drugs and the elderly:

- The action of specific drugs, and their side-effects, on specific organs and the total body.
- The proper communication between physicians, other health-care professionals and pharmacists, and their patients regarding compliance and possible side and adverse effects.
- Public education regarding the place of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
- The efficacy of present federal and provincial legislation controlling the prescribing, marketing, dispensing and use of drugs. (Special attention should be given to over-medication and to unproven products.)

20. Research be done in the following aspects of providing health and social services:

- The need for various preventive and support programs, with a

view to establishing priorities.

- Methods of coordinating delivery systems between agencies and between all levels of government for individual persons.
- Methods of evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of services being provided.
- The basic quality of services which should be available to the elderly across Canada, recognizing local and regional differences.

21. Research be done to define the role requirements for professionals who work with the elderly; and to identify optimal models of "team composition" of professionals and non-professionals in various community and institutional settings. (The main criteria for teams, should be maximum effectiveness, efficiency and flexibility.)

22. Research be done to determine the impact of "user charges" on the access to and utilization of health and social services and programs.

References

1. **Goldstein, S.** *Biology of aging.* NEJM 285 Nov. 11, 1971. pp 1120-1129.
2. **Walker, Weldon J.** *Changing United States life-style and declining vascular mortality: cause or coincidence.* Editorial NEJM 297 July 21, 1977 pp 163-165.
3. **Cape, R.D.T.** *A concept of geriatric medicine.* Editorial.
4. **CMA Journal** 115 July 3, 1976. pp 9-12.
5. **Health care for the aged 1978 — Report of the Ontario Council of Health.** 700 Bay St. 14th Floor, Toronto. p. 37.
5. **Marshall, Victor W.** *Introduction to aging in Canada — Social Perspectives.* Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Don Mills, Ontario. 1980. p. 2.
6. *Nutrition of the aged — Proceedings of a symposium, presented by The Nutrition Society of Canada.* Univ. Calgary June 20, 1977, p.2.
7. **Shneidman, N.N.** *Soviet studies in the fitness of the aged.* Can Fam Phys 18 Oct 1972, pp 53-56.
8. **Steinberg, S.K., Cape, R.D.T.** *Drug therapy in the elderly: problems and recommendations.* Ont Med Rev Jan 1981, pp 22-26.
9. **Wilson, D.L.** *Time for a new approach to Canada's older population.* CMA Journal 122 Apr 5, 1980, pp 829-833.
10. **Henderson, B.** *The health care delivery team: a plan that needs a push.* CMAJ 124 Jan 1, 1981 pp 83-84.

SECTION THREE: RETIREMENT ISSUES AND INCOME AS THEY AFFECT THE ELDERLY

The age of retirement is a period of crisis, or at least of difficult adjustment, for the individual in our society.

Increasing concern is being expressed about the chaotic characteristics of pension plans, particularly private pensions; the unresolved question of universality of government pensions (Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement); and more broadly, in these times of rapidly accelerating living costs, the need to maintain income levels for older people.

It is a simple fact that many if not most elderly people in Canada today, particularly those who are single, do not have sufficient resources to maintain an adequate standard of living; they are dependent on government pensions and are without any private means of support. This carries serious implications for a population that is rapidly aging, and makes imperative a solution to the actuarial problems that now beset pension systems in this country.

A great deal more public discussion and research is needed to arrive at satisfactory answers to these problems.

However, several statements of principle can now be made:

1. Government benefits to elderly people in need must be

increased at least to the level of the recognized poverty line established by Statistics Canada.

- 2.** It is imperative that the Canada Pension Plan/Québec Pension Plan be adjusted and improved to achieve a sound financial position.
- 3.** All private pension plans should include early vesting privileges, portability, survivor benefits and a measure of protection against inflation.
- 4.** There should be no legislated mandatory age of retirement; the age of retirement should be negotiable.

The achievement of these goals will involve intensive study and action by governments, industry, unions, and all agencies concerned with the elderly in our society.

The National Advisory Council on Aging recommends that:

- 23.** Government benefits to older people, in need, be increased to at least the poverty line level recognized by Statistics Canada and taking into consideration regional differences in cost-of-living.
- 23.1** The quarterly indexing be continued for the Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance, in order to preserve the purchasing power of these benefits.

24. There be regular, periodic reviews of CPP and QPP pension

plans (particularly, the "Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings"), and action be taken to ensure that the intended benefits remain undiminished by inflation.

24.1 A method be established to include, as pensionable, the "drop-out years" from the labour/work force.

25. Individuals be encouraged, through various avenues, to invest for their needs in later life.

26. Any terms relating to mandatory retirement be negotiated in the work place, with recognition that a flexible system exist to provide employees with options.

27. Remunerative work opportunities appropriate for older workers, be developed by employers (where applicable in co-operation with the unions.)

27.1 Research be done into possible fields of work for older persons to assist employers or self-help groups; this research to be funded by appropriate agencies.

28. Research be done to establish procedures to evaluate present pre-retirement programs, covering content, presentation, motivation strategies, timing and costs.

28.1 Research be done to establish models of pre-retirement programs with long-term values.

28.2 Research be done into efficient and effective ways to involve employers and employees in establishing pre-retirement programs.

SECTION III: PROBLÈMES DU REVENU AU MOMENT DE LA RETRAITE ET COMMENT CEUX-CI AFFECTENT LES PERSONNES AGÉES

1. Les prestations
 - recherches soient faites.
 - Toutefois, plusieurs principes ou remarcables peuvent être énoncés des maintenances:
 - énoncées des personnes versées aux personnes âgées dans le besoin qui doivent être au moins le niveau du atteindre au moins le niveau du seul de pauvreté établi par Statistique Canada.
2. Il est urgent que le Régime de pensions du Canada et le Régime de pensions du Québec soient
 - ajustés et améliorés pour assurer une situation financière stable.
 - 3. Tous les régimes privés de retraite devraient comprendre les éléments suivants: l'acquisition anticipée, la transférabilité, les prestations de survie et des mesures de protection contre l'inflation.
 - 4. Il ne devrait pas y avoir d'âge obligatoire de retraite; l'âge de la retraite devrait pouvoir être négocié.
 - 5. Pour atteindre ces objectifs, les gouvernements, l'industrie, les syndicats et tous les organismes intéressants aux personnes âgées devraient collaborer.
 - 6. Gouvernement, l'industrie, les syndicats et toutes les organisations qui ont des mesures de protection contre l'inflation devraient prendre à faire des études et à s'attacher à faire des mesures.

L'âge de la retraite est une période de crise ou du moins d'ajustement difficile pour les individus de notre société. L'aspect chaotique des régimes de pension et notation des régimes privés, la question non résolue de l'application universelle des régimes de pension supplémentaire revient généralement, en ces temps d'augmentation galopante du coût de la vie, la conservation de personnes suffisants par les revenus supplémentaires de la sécurité sociale et de la vieillesse et de la conservation de personnes supplémentaires, en ces temps de récession et de la vieillesse et de la conservation de personnes supplémentaires par les revenus suffisants pour les personnes âgées et surtout celles qui sont seules, n'a pas de précédent pour conserver un niveau de vie adéquat. Elles reviennent suffisants pour conserver prestations de retraite ouvertes au public pour une population qui vit rapidement, et il est urgent que soit trouvée une solution aux problèmes de nature actuelle qui mettent les systèmes de pensions au Canada. Il faut, pour arriver à des solutions satisfaisantes, que les populations ouvertes au public plus de discussions publiques aient lieu et que plus de la retraite est une période de crise ou du moins d'ajustement difficile pour les individus de notre société.

8. Steinberg, S.K., Cape, R.D.T., Drug therapy in the elderly: problems and recommendations. Ontario Medical Review, January 1981, p. 22-26.
9. Wilson, D.L. Time for a new approach to Canada's older population. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 122, 5 April 1980, p. 829-833.
10. Henderson, B. The health care elderly team: a plan that needs a push. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 124, 1st January 1981, p. 83-84.

References

Références	
22. Que des recherches soient effectuées afin de déterminer quel est l'impact des "frais aux usagers", sur l'accès aux programmes de santé et de services sociaux et sur leur utilisation.	libre; ordonnances et ceux de vente commerciales gouvérnante le législatives fédérales et portée à la surmédication et aux usages des médicaments. (Une attention particulière devrait être portée à la surmédication et aux produits non éprouvés.)
20. Que des recherches soient effectuées sur les aspects suivants de la prestation des soins de santé et des services sociaux: • Le besoin de divers programmes de prévention et de soutien afin de prévenir les maladies et les moyens de coordonner les systèmes de prestations de services entre les agences, les différents paliers de gouvernement et les individus;	20. Que des recherches soient effectuées sur les aspects suivants de la prestation des soins de santé et des services sociaux: • Les méthodes pour évaluer l'efficacité et l'efficience des services fournis;
1. Goldstein, S. Biology of aging. New England Journal of Medicine, 285, 11 novembre 1971, p 1120-1129.	• La qualité essentielle des services qui dévraient être disponibles pour les personnes âgées à travers le Canada, complète tenu des différences locales et régionales.
2. Walker, Sheldon J. Changing United States life-style and cause of coincidence. Editorial, New England Journal of Medicine, 297, 21 juillet 1977. p. 163-165.	• La qualité essentielle des services qui dévraient être disponibles pour les personnes âgées à travers le Canada, complète tenu des différences locales et régionales.
3. Cape, R.D.T. A concept of geriatric medicine. Editorial, Canadian Medical Association Journal, 115, 3 juillet 1976. p. 9-12.	21. Que des recherches soient effectuées pour évaluer les différences locales et régionales.
4. Health care for the aged 1978 — Report of the Ontario Council of Health. (700, rue Bay, 14 ^e étage, Toronto) p. 37.	21. Que des recherches soient effectuées pour évaluer les différences locales et régionales.
5. Marshall, Victor W. Introduction to aging in Canada — Social Perspectives. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Don Mills, Ontario. 1980. p. 2.	21. Que des recherches soient effectuées pour évaluer les différences locales et régionales.
6. Nutrition of the aged — Proceedings of a symposium, Calgary, 20 juin 1977. p. 2.	21. Que des recherches soient effectuées pour évaluer les différences locales et régionales.
7. Society of Canada. Un. de la Nutrition. The Nutrition Society of Canada. Un. de la Nutrition. Proceedings by the Nutrition Society of Canada, 1972. p. 53-56.	21. Que des recherches soient effectuées pour évaluer les différences locales et régionales.
18. Canadian Family Physician. Studies in the fitness of the aged. 18, octobre 1972.	21. Que des recherches soient effectuées pour évaluer les différences locales et régionales.

aux besoins complexes des personnes âgées. Leurs rôles devraient être définis et compris. 10 Les professions de chaque discipline devraient connaître les disciplines et comment elles sont combinées, bien que les programmes et les services peuvent monder en fonction d'une offre et accessibles à tout le monde. 11 Il est essentiel que les services et les programmes les plus proposent des structures familiales et sociales canadiennes y compris les réseaux sociaux; • de l'influence que les coutumes et valeurs culturelles peuvent avoir sur la satisfaction des besoins des personnes âgées, tels que le logement, les soins de santé et les services de prévention; • des différences régionales; • des différences régionales; et les services de prévention; • la pharmacopée et les personnes âgées"; 19. Que des recherches soient faites sur les aspects suivants de la pharmacopée et les personnes âgées: • l'action de certains médicaments spécifiques et les effets secondaires sur le fonctionnement d'organes particuliers et de tout orga nisme; • les communications appropriées entre les médecins, les autres professionnels de la santé et les pharmaciens, et les patients pour ce qui a trait aux obligations possibles des secondaires et aux effets ordonnances et aux effets secondaires qui peuvent être traitées malades qui peuvent être traitées assurer l'identification précoce des personnes pour qui ces risques pour la santé. 17. Que des recherches soient faites sur les faiblesses et les moyens de promouvoir des habitudes de vie saines pour les personnes âgées, et que celles-ci assurent l'identification précoce des personnes pour qui ces risques pour la santé. 17.1 Que des recherches soient faites pour comprendre des approches pour assurer l'identification précoce des personnes pour qui ces risques pour la santé.

Il est prouvé que les médecins souvent envisage quelques étalements les influences culturelles et bien s'il est nécessaire et bénéfique que des personnes âgées fassent de l'exercice pour rester en bonne santé et on devrait faire de fortes études à ce sujet. On a nouvelles études dans tous ces domaines.

Il est présent beaucoup sur la prescrition de médicaments pour traiter les personnes âgées. De plus, les personnes âgées achètent, en vente libre, de très grandes quantités de médicaments qui "soulagent". Or, on ne sait que très peu de choses sur les modes d'action et les effets avec d'autres médicaments et les autres interactions dans l'organisme tout une série de services et de programmes est créée au Canada à l'intention des personnes âgées pour leur fournir les soins, l'aide sociale, le logement, les loisirs, le transport, etc. dont elles ont besoin. Des informations doivent être recueillies sur les avantages et les inconvénients des différentes et autres. 9 facteurs régionaux, géographiques et professionnels de la santé et des services sociaux, et leurs implications pour sauvegarder les connaissances coordonnées entre les deux ministères et les deux régions pour répondre aux besoins sociaux et culturels des citoyens.

maladie mettant la vie en danger.¹ Toutefois les taux de mortalité par maladies cardiovaskulaires et les maladies possibles diminuer² et il semble que la vie soit meilleure à l'âge et il faut donc prendre des risques pour être en bonne santé. Les malades vivent indépendamment dans notre société mais courrent des risques pour leur survie. Il peut qui pourraient être évités.³ Il peut leur falloir un certain temps pour identifier les symptômes de maladies qui, pour être bien traitées, doivent être diagnostiquées de façon précoce.⁴ Des recherches dévraient être faites sur les meilleures façons de fournir informations et conseils sans envahir intimité d'individus. Au niveau canadien on manque d'informations sur les réseaux d'âges, constitutés par exemple par les familles et les amis, et sur les répercussions qu'ont les besoins régionales et culturelles et des différences entre le milieu urbain n'est pas très bien comprises.

References

au malade d'un honoraire quelconque. Les services que l'on peut accéder à tous. Il devrait être reconnu que certains malades, et surtout les personnes âgées, ont besoin que plus de temps leur soit consacré pour élucider et traiter leurs problèmes complexes, et les médecins devraient donc être prêts à passer plus de temps avec eux.

Le Conseil consultatif national sur le troisième âge recommande:

7. Que des logements salubres, bien équipés, abordables et sans danger soient mis à la disposition des personnes âgées.

7.1. Que des modifications aux logements privés soient encouragées pour permettre aux personnes âgées handicapées d'y demeurer, et que les gouvernements prennent des mesures qui incitent dans ce sens.

7.2. Que des réglementations visant à définir les normes minimales aux personnes âgées soient approuvées et respectées.

8. Que des services de soutien soient mis à la disposition de toutes les collectivités pour que les efforts de la famille et des amis soutiennent toutes les collectivités dans toutes les situations de travailleurs familiales, de services de travailleurs manuels et de conséillers.

9. Qu'il existe dans toutes les collectivités un service coordonné de services de travailleurs familiaux à l'entremise de soins de santé à domicile, d'aide aux personnes âgées et en cours de rétablissement.

SECTION II: SERVICES DE SANTÉ ET SERVICES SOCIAUX POUR LES PERSONNES ÂGÉES

- iii. Formation pour travailler auprès des personnes âgées
- Il est essentiel que tout le personnel, professionnel ou non, des services de santé et des services sociaux soit formé pour traiter avec compétence les problèmes des personnes âgées,
- qui constituent une partie croissante de la population et qui ont besoin de traitement et de soins

Locaux et des environnements physiques et sociaux adaptés et qui les méthodes d'enseignement permettent de tirer profit de l'expérience de vie des personnes âgées ainsi que de leurs différences culturelles et leurs systèmes de valeurs distincts.

2.3. Que, dans la mesure du possible, les programmes favorisent la participation des personnes âgées tant dans le partage d'expérience de la vie.

2.4. Que des programmes susceptibles d'aider les personnes âgées à découvrir de nouveaux rôles et vocations dans notre société en évolution, soient mis sur pied.

2.5. Que une attention spéciale soit portée aux moyens utilisés pour mettre les personnes âgées au courant des possibilités d'apprentissage disponibles et aux celles-ci à y participer.

même enduite, soit séparément, un inventaire et une évaluation des programmes actuels. On pourrait ainsi explorer la formeation et les attitudes des personnes qui donnent les cours. ainsi que la matière de ces cours. Cet inventaire devrait être exhaustif et porter sur les services offerts dans les grands centres urbains, les villes de banlieue et les communautés rurales. Cet inventaire devrait être grande game de cours et de projets éducatifs mais qui, ils sont sous-utilisés ou qui, ils sont adaptés. Toute réstriction ou insuffisance des programmes actuels devrait être examinée par mauvaise répartition des crédits ainsi qu'au manque ou à la centres communautaires. D'après les résultats tirés de cette enquête, un programme dynamique de nouveilles pourrait étre introduit au Canada L'importance de nouvelles expériences éducatives doit étre encore soulignée: seul ce genre de personnes âgées à effacer l'image d'expérience peut inciter les personnes âgées et elles-mêmes à développer et s'enticher plus; seul ce genre d'expérience peut dissiper les idées noires ou moribides et les sentiments négatifs. Les personnes âgées pourront explorer cette période de leur vie et leur enfance pourraient leur donner une meilleure compréhension de leur vie actuelle et leur permettre de faire face à leurs problèmes de manière plus positive.

Deux autres recommandations partielles en ce domaine doivent être notées. Le Conseil consultatif national sur le troisième âge devrait participer à l'éducation populaire en faisant le plus possible connaître son rôle dans le cadre de l'Assemblée mondiale sur le vieillissement prévue pour 1982, présenter au public un message qui aurait une valeur particulière (par exemple, récueril enregisistrate ou écrit de temoignages de personnes âgées de différents groupes ethniques et sur le troisième âge recommandé: 1. Qu'un programme intensif d'information du public soit mis en place pour corriger les fausses idées sur le vieillissement et pour présenter une vision positive du rôle des personnes âgées dans la société. 1.1. Que les personnes âgées participent à la conception et à la réalisation de ce programme qui devra tenir compte des situations locales.

1.2. Que les communicateurs et eux-mêmes fassent partie d'un programme séparé visant à les renseigner sur les réalisations du vieillissement et sur les rôles possibles des personnes âgées.

28. Qu'une recherche soit faite pour établir une marche à suivre pour valider servir à évaluer les programmes de présentation, leur contenu, mode de présentation, leurs stratégies de motivation, coûts et moment propice.

28.1. Qu'une recherche soit faite pour déterminer des modèles de programmes de préparation à la formation, leur contenu, mode de présentation, leur contenu, mode de actuels, leur contenu, mode de présentation, leur contenu, mode de présentation, leurs stratégies de motivation, coûts et moment propice.

28.2. Qu'une recherche soit faite effectuée sur les moyens efficients et efficaces d'engager les employeurs et les employées à établir des programmes de préparation à la recherche.

24.1. Que l'on voit à établir une diminuée en dépit de l'inflation. méthode pour inclure, pour finir de penser les "années perdues", lorsqu'eux les personnes ont du se retrier de la force active.

24.2. Que tous les aspects obligatoires de la recherche soient négociées sur le marché du travail et qu'on prévoit un système flexible qui puisse permettre aux employés de faire un certain choix.

25. Que les particuliers soient invités pour leurs moyens, à encourager par divers moyens, à investir pour leur besoins à personnes futurs.

26. Que tous les aspects obligatoires de la recherche soient négociées sur le marché du travail et qu'on prévoit un système flexible qui puisse permettre aux employés de faire un certain choix.

27. Que des possibilités de travail remuneré soient créées par les employeurs (en collaboration avec les syndicats lorsqu'eux le cas soit fait sur l'étendue des champs pour venir en aide aux employeurs et aux groupes d'entraide; cette recherche devrait être subventionnée par les organismes appropriés.

- secondaires sur le fonctionnement d'organes particuliers et de tout l'organisme;
- les communications appropriées entre les médicaments, les autres et les pharmaciens, et les patients pour ordonnances et aux effets secondaires et contre-indications possibles;
- l'éducation du public concernant la place des médicaments dans la vie quotidienne, l'ordonnance, la vente et la commercialisation, la vente et l'usage des médicaments. (Une attention particulière devrait être portée à la surmédication et aux produits non éprouvés.)
- 20. Que des recherches soient effectuées sur les aspects suivants de la prestation des soins de santé de divers programmes de prévention et de soutien afin de développer les priorités:
- les moyens de coordonner les systèmes de prestations de services entre les agences, les différents paliers de gouvernement et les individus;
- les méthodes pour évaluer la qualité essentielle des services qui devraient être disponibles pour les personnes âgées à travers le Canada, compte tenu des différences locales et régionales.
- 21. Que des recherches soient pour les personnes âgées à travers le Canada, compte tenu des différences régionales.

fonction comprendra, entre autres, la promotion de ces normes au sein des spécialistes et de la collectivité.

15.1. Que cet organisme aide, s'il y a lieu, les personnes âgées et leurs familles à obtenir des soins et services appropriés et à faire la lumière d'une façon responsable sur toute question d'abus ou de négligence.

15.2. Que cet organisme à l'égard des personnes âgées. Recherches sur les questions et les conditions qui affectent les personnes âgées.

A l'attention: Des gouvernements fédéral et provinciaux; Des fondations privées; Des centres de sciences de la santé; Des facultés de médecine; Des associations médicales et professionnelles nationales; Des associations canadienne pour la Santé mentale et autres; Des associations pharmaceutique canadienne; Le conseil consultatif national; Organismes de santé spécialisés.

16. Que une politique précise soit établie et que des subventions soient accordées à la recherche fondamentale et appliquée pour que les chercheurs importants soient subventionnés.

17. Que des recherches soient faites sur les habitudes de vie saines pour les personnes de promouvoir des moyens de comprendre les apprêches pour assurer l'identité et la sécurité pour éviter les risques pour la santé.

17.1. Que des recherches soient effectuées pour déterminer les besoins en nutrition des personnes âgées ainsi que les avantages de l'exercice physique pour ces dernières; de telles recherches devraient évaluer ce qui est actuellement préconisé et tenir compte des aspects diététiques, culturels et ethniques.

18. Que des recherches soient faites pour déterminer les besoins familiales et proposer des stratégies pour obtenir des données fiables à des structures familiales et pour les personnes y compris les sociales canadiennes y compris les ressaux sociaux.

• des structures familiales et proposer des stratégies pour obtenir des données fiables à des services culturelles pour les personnes âgées, tels que le logement, les soins de santé et les services de prévention; et les services des personnes âgées, tels que le logement, les soins de santé et les services de prévention; et les services des personnes âgées;

• de l'influence que les coutumes ressaux sociaux;

• de l'influence que les coutumes et valeurs culturelles peuvent avoir sur la satisfaction des besoins des personnes âgées, tels que le logement, les soins de santé et les services de prévention; et les services des personnes âgées;

• des différences régionales;

• des différences régionales, tenances qui peuvent toucher les personnes âgées, leurs familles, les ressaux sociaux et services sociaux.

19. Que des recherches soient faites sur les aspects suivants de "la pharmacopée et les personnes âgées";

• l'action de certains médicaments malades et des états invalidants liés à l'âge.

connaissances de base sur le vieillissement, de l'information pratiquée et une formation sur les aptitudes requises dans ce genre de travail, y compris celle de la communication. Ces cours devraient être préparés avec la collaboration de personnes compétentes et bien renseignées dans ces domaines.

5. Que des cours soient préparés pour les non-professionnels qui travaillent à divers titres auprès des personnes âgées. (Ces cours sont destinés à développer des domaines, ces domaines.

formation et de perfectionnement spéciales pour les étudiants et les praticiens professionnels et afin d'augmenter le nombre et la compétence des enseignants dans

4. Qu'on accorde des
ces domaines.
4. Qu'on accorde des
subventions fédérales et
provinciales afin d'assurer
l'existence de programmes de

Si l'élève réussit son examen de compétence, son évaluation au cours des études, avant que se donne tout permis, sera certifiée par une carte de pratique ou un certificat de pratique ou une carte de pratique.

21. Quelle est la compétence sociale ?
sainte partuculiers au troisième âge.

3. Que tout étudiant dans les domaines de services de santé ait l'occasion d'étudier la nature et le fonctionnement (contenu) d'un

Le Conseil consultatif national
centres de jour pour personnes
âgées.

- 1 administration, universités, centres de sciences de la santé, collèges
- Des associations professionnelles communautaires et des ordres;
- Des associations professionnelles médicales et de soins de santé;
- De l'Association des facultés de médecine du Canada, et des organismes de réglementation de la santé;
- Des organismes de réglementation établissements de soins de santé;
- Des organismes de services sociaux; des sancte et de services sociaux;

- III. Formation pour travailleur auprès des personnes âgées
- IV. Formation pour travailleur auprès de Gouvernement, les membres de l'administration et les responsables de la sécurité sociale

SERVICES DE SANTÉ ET SERVICES SOCIAUX POUR LES PERSONNES ÂGÉES

2.5. Qu'une attention spéciale sur pied, soit portée aux moyens utilisés pour mettre les personnes âgées au cœur des possibilités d'apprentissage dispensables et aux approches adoptées pour motiver celles-ci à y participer.

2.4. Que des programmes susceptibles d'aider les personnes âgées à découvrir de nouveaux rôles et vocations dans notre société en évolution, soient mis

favorisent la participation des personnes âgées tant dans l'enseignement que dans le partage d'expérience de la vie.

2.3 Quel, dans la mesure du système de valeurs distincts, différences culturelles et leurs aggées ainsi que de leurs possibles les protocoles

l'expérience de vie des personnes

Le rapport du sous-comité dans tard sous deux titres distincts dans A la réunion de février, trois sous-comités ont été formés et ils dévaluent se rencontrent séparément par la suite. Dr Ronald Bayne présidait le sous-comité sur la santé et les services sociaux; M. Henri Richard présidait celui sur la recherche; et Mme Lise Langlois, celle sur l'éducation du public et la création de possibilités. En plus de solliciter les réponses des ministères gouvernementaux auxquelles les recommandations du présent rapport sont faites, le Conseil, en conformité avec son mandat, invite le grand public à lui faire part de ses observations et commentaires. Une formule est une incluse à cette fin.

des sons complexes relais a la
sétrade. Le présent rapport expose
les résultats des discussions
engagées depuis plusieurs mois
sur ces problèmes prioritaires.
Depuis sa création en mai 1980,
le Conseil a tenu trois rencontres
officielles. Lors de la dernière, les
3 et 4 octobre 1981, les membres
ont approuvé le texte global du
présent rapport et ils en ont
autorisé la publication.
Le rapport est composé de trois
sections qui correspondent aux
domaines d'intervention fixés à
partir de certaines priorités
établies lors de la première
rencontre du Conseil, en octobre
1980, alors que huit de ces
priorités futures étaient "très
urgentes". A la deuxième
rencontre, fin février 1981, nous
nous sommes limités à l'étude de
trois domaines. L'un d'entre eux,
soit l'éducation du public et celle
de l'extrême âge, revient plus

Dans ce premier rapport, le Conseil consultatif national sur le troisième âge entreprend de présenter au grand public les problèmes les plus sérieux du Canada aujourd’hui. Le Conseil a défini certains priorités d’action : changer la perception du public du troisième âge, à la fois pour la population et pour les fournir des possibilités d’apprêter à l’âge suscitées par les installations et services sociaux de santé mis à la disposition du troisième âge ; et, définir les coordonnées et améliorer les périodes de croissance continue ; faire de cette étape de la vie une période de croissance continue ; et assurer la disponibilité de services sociaux et de services de santé adaptés au troisième âge.

AVANT-PROPOS	5
RESUME DES RECOMMANDATIONS	6
SECTION I : EDUCATION DU PUBLIC ET POSSIBILITES D'APPRENTISSAGE	13
ii. Perception qu'a le public du troisième âge iii. Possibilités d'apprentissage pour les personnes du troisième âge	13
SECTION II : SERVICES DE SANTÉ ET SERVICES SOCIAUX POUR LES PERSONNES ÂGÉES	19
iii. Formation pour travailler auprès des personnes âgées	19
besoins des personnes âgées en matière de services et d'environnement Organismes de promotion pour les personnes âgées	20
24	Recherche sur les questions et les conditions qui affectent les personnes âgées
SECTION III: PROBLÈMES DU REVENU AU MOMENT DE LA RETRAITE ET COMMENT CEUX-CI AFFECTENT LES PERSONNES ÂGÉES	29

Members	Mandat	Créé par un décret en Conseil fédéral le 1 ^{er} mai 1980, le Conseil consultatif national sur le troisième âge est composé de dix-huit membres et est chargé de la Santé nationale et du bien-être social en ce qui concerne tous les aspects de la qualité de la vie de la population âgée de plus de 65 ans, renouvelable. Le Conseil diverses domaines du troisième âge, et les sous-comités sont conviendrait de lancer un mandat de deux ans, se renouvelable. Le Conseil subventionnées par Santé et Bien-être Social Canada.
S ^r Sylvia McDonald, Ph.D.,	Montreal (Qué.)	M. Chuck Bayley
Mme Corabé Penfold	Toronto (Ont.)	M. Ronald Bayne
Toronto (Ont.)	M. Henri Richard	M. Stephén P. Connolly
M. Henri Richard	M. Melvin Rose	Mme Zoe Cousins
M. Melvin Rose	St. John's (T.-N.)	Charlottetown (I.-P.-E.)
St. John's (T.-N.)	M. James Sangster	Mme Mary Davis
M. James Sangster	Regina (Sask.)	Whitehorse (T.-Y.)
Regina (Sask.)	M. Patrice Tar dit	Edmonton (Alta.)
M. Patrice Tar dit	St. Method-de-Frontenac (Qué.)	Mme Berthe B. Fourrier
St. Method-de-Frontenac (Qué.)	M. Bryan Vaughan	Mme Alice Labelle
M. Bryan Vaughan	Toronto (Ont.)	St-Boniface (Man.)
Toronto (Ont.)	M. Charles S. Wall	Mme Lise Langlois
M. Charles S. Wall	Sydney (N.-E.)	Beaupré (Qué.)
Sydney (N.-E.)	Secrétaire	M. Charles McDonald
Secrétaire	Maurice Miron, directeur	Windзор (Ont.)
Maurice Miron, directeur	Claude Lacasse,	
Claude Lacasse,	agent principal de projets	
agent principal de projets	Francine Beauregard,	
Francine Beauregard,	agente d'information	
agente d'information	Liliane Sauve, secrétaire	

